

THE CONDITIONAL SENTENCE
FROM COMMYNES TO
MALHERBE

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University of Michigan

Supplement to the *Romanic Review*

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A dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the University of Michigan.

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Printed in the United States of America

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In the works of sixteenth century writers it is impossible, all circumstances being considered, to provide a constantly reliable set of criteria for distinguishing mood through the form of the verb. Words and forms change from author to author, from book to book, and even from clause to clause:

Si j'*eusse* voulu parler par science, j'*eus* parlé plustost: j'*eusse* escript du temps plus voisin de mes estudes (Mont., III, 368).¹

This fact, however, raises no difficulties in the case of the conditional sentence, where construction assumes the nature of a formula. Consequently, the extraordinary precautions required in other cases to preclude the possibility of errors developing through the mistaking of mood, are here unnecessary.

It is not our intention to consider here the Latin antecedents of the conditional formulas,² or to carry comparisons farther back than Gautier d'Arras and Chrétien de Troyes, but rather, chiefly, to consider the range of formulas employed by representative sixteenth century authors, examples of these formulas, and the developments in usage up to the time of Malherbe. To fulfill this last indicated purpose, that is, to discern whether there really is a movement in language, requires the frequency table.³ Let us begin with the protasis.

THE PROTASIS

1. In the works examined,⁴ protases are introduced by *si*, *quand*, *qui*, *ne*, *que*, in this order of frequency. Next in order of frequency

¹ The bibliography of sources is appended.

² This has been done, for the limited number of formulas usually shown, by Eugen Lerch in his *Historische französische Syntax (Zweiter Band, 1929)*, and by various others before him.

³ According to the results of our experiments made in studying syntax by means of frequency tables, only exceptional usages are to be found beyond the 200th or, in many cases, the 150th page of a given author's work.

⁴ A work of Anatole France is included, to provide, for readers who may be interested, the comparisons appearing in some of the tables.

stands the case where no introductory word is employed. Of rarer occurrence are *quand encore*, *quand bien*, *quiconque*, *tel qui*, *tel*, the present participle, and *pour* with the infinitive.⁵ In conjunction with the first six orders of frequency we have recorded the following tenses and moods:

	<i>Si</i>	<i>Quand</i>	<i>Qui</i>	<i>Ne</i>	<i>Que</i>	None
Plup. indic.	*					
Plup. subj.	*	*	*	*		
Past def.	*	*	*			
Imperf. indic.	*	*	*	*		
Imperf. subj.	*		*	*	*	*
Past indef.	*		*			
Pres. perf. subj.					*	
Pres. indic.	*	*	*			
Pres. subj.	*				*	*
Cond.	*	*	*	*	*	
Fut.	*	*	*			
Cond. perf.	*	*				
Fut. perf.		*				

We shall have occasion to draw a significant comparison with this table, at another point.

2. *Si* expressing concession occurs but rarely. We have recorded two examples in the work of Gautier d'Arras:

Se li chevaus valoit mil mars, Si amast il mieuz qu'il fust ars, Par si que li poulains veluz Eüst les trois cours parvaincuz (Variant B: *vausist*) (Gaut., 1661); *Sire, se jou ai fait folie, Je ne fis nule felonie* (*id.*, 6318).

The second example is not a true one, since it lacks *Si* introducing the apodosis. The presence of *Si* would give the protasis the sense of a real concession, whereas the protasis of the first example presents a supposed concession. Ayer⁶ calls attention to *si* introducing a real concession, in modern French (p. 660), and also to *si* introducing a fact (p. 654), as in the second example above. The distinction, it is seen, belongs to the apodosis rather than to the protasis, which in either case presents a fact:

⁵ We purposely omit *sans cela*, *autrement*, and similar locutions occasionally employed as protases; likewise *et*, which in the following exceptional example appears to replace either *si* or *quand*: *Que me donnerez vous & ie n'en parleray point?* (Marg., II, 140)

⁶ C. (Nicolas-Louis-Cyprien) Ayer, *Grammaire Comparée de la Langue Française*, 4^e éd., Paris, 1885.

s'il se remuoit, il le suyvoit à la trace (Amy., 71); ces chaleurs qui ont été excessives *s'il en fut* jamais. (Malh., III, 70)

Si j'ai vécu, ce ne fut qu'un moment (Ayer, 654); *Si je n'ai pas réussi*, toujours ai-je fait mon devoir (*id.*, 660).

3. *Quand* expresses concession very frequently, but not invariably:

quant ilz eussent esté ung peu plus avant, ilz eussent prins et desconfit le tiers de l'armée. (Comm., I, 40)

In the rôle of protasis, conditional and concessive clauses are so closely related that we are forced to consider the concessive protasis as belonging, within certain limits, to our subject. Both the difficulty in fixing these limits, and the necessity for them, may be perceived from the two following examples:

car que ie ne pourrois avoir de vous que les oz, si les voudrois ie tenir auprès de moy. (Marg., I, 138)

car il y en ha qui se pourroyent rompre le col qu'ilz n'en seroyent pas plus riches. (Desp., 152)

The first example is peripheral; the second lies quite beyond our limits.

4. *Qui* is already comparatively rare at the beginning of our period. We find occasional examples of its employment in a confused manner:

Mais *qui* vous nommeroyt les personnes, ou *qui eust vu* la contenance de ce marchand & l'estonnement de ceste vielle, eust eu grand paour de sa conscience *s'il se fust gardé* de rire. (Marg., I, 75)

Compare:

Qui vous voudroit escouter, la iournée se passeroit en querelles. (*id.*, I, 220)

THE SECOND PROTASIS

5. The second protasis is, comparatively speaking, very rare. Ordinarily it is introduced by *et*, *et que*⁷, or, if alternative, by *ou que*, and has the subjunctive. The subjunctive is not invariable, however:

⁷ Vaugelas (*Remarques*, Chassang edition, 1880; I, 137) permits the repetition of *si* but considers *que* and the subjunctive *beaucoup plus François et plus elegant*.

si nous dressons une fois nostre cogitation au Seigneur, *et recongnoissons** quelle est la perfection de sa justice, . . . : ce qui nous plaisoit au paravant . . . , apparoistra estre souillé (Calv., R.C., 2) ; le dis aussi, que quand les ennemis auroient trouvé le moyen . . . , *et qu'ils seroient entrez* en ladite Ville, . . . si est-ce que par tel moyen ils n'auront gagné aucune chose (Paliss., 121).

Likewise in Gaut., 3317, we find the indicative after *et*.

Occasionally the second protasis is contained in a relative clause having its antecedent in the first protasis. In this case the sentence passes from one form of construction to the other, without change of mood:

si j'estois morte *et j'ouysse* un violon, je me leverois pour baller. (Desp., 123)

si tu voyois maintenant les ennemys aux deux boutz de ce pont *qui t'attendissent* à passer, que ferois-tu? (*id.*, 156)
si je trouvois le diable à mon chemin *qui m'en voulût empêcher*, je lui passerois sur le ventre. (Malh., III, 502)

The persistence of the relative clause, it is to be noted, is one of the distinguishing features of the sentence structure of our period.

6. As we have just noted, the character of the language is such that a second or a third protasis may take various forms and yet reflect, through the mood employed, its essentially conditional nature:

Si le Seigneur ne le frappe ou que son jour vienne *qu'il meure*, ou *qu'il soit occiz en guerre*: j'à ne m'advienne que je mette ma main sur le Christ du Seigneur. (Calv., R.C., 779)

This is, in fact, but a special aspect of a general tendency of the language to retain the same mood throughout a series of clauses depending each upon the preceding one:

Ja mar soit nus hom qui çou *die* Qu'onques *fesissiez* vilonie (Gaut., 5020).

Et quand il *adviendroit*, que les ennemis *auroient fait* une telle approche, que . . . (Paliss., 121) ; Cette fois, Monsieur, vous ne contesterez que je vous *die* que je *sois* votre serviteur très-humble. Malh., III, 576)⁸

* Indeterminate form.

⁸ This is not an established rule. Cf.: Et craignant qu'on ne *die* que je luy *veux* rien oster, . . . (Est., 105). Vaugelas posits that if the first of three verbs

7. After *quand*, Marguerite d'Angoulême and Palissy, who among our authors are the only ones using this construction to a noteworthy extent, employ respectively 1) either *et* with or without change of mood, or *et que* with change of mood, and 2) *et que* with or without change of mood:

quand tout le monde me diroit femme de bien, & *ie sçaurois* seule le contraire, . . . ; & aussi quand il me blasmeroit & *ie sentisse* mon innocence, . . . (Marg., I, 146); Et quand Monseigneur vostre frere en feroit la iustice que en demandez, & *que* le pauvre gentil homme en *vint** à mourir, si courra le bruit . . . (*id.*, I, 56).

quand les ennemis se seroyent encore plus opiniastrez *et qu'ils eussent brisé* . . . , *et qu'ils peussent* passer . . . , si est-ce qu'ils . . . (Paliss., 121); quand ils auroyent étudié cinquante ans . . . , *et qu'ils auroyent* les cartes . . . , voudroyent ils . . . ? (*id.*, 132)

NUMBER OF FORMULAS

8. In our authors from Gautier d'Arras to Malherbe we have recorded varieties of protases, double and triple protases, and apodoses, which, in their various combinations and in the various tenses and moods employed, present a total of 159 types of conditional sentences. Some of these formulas do not invariably include a truly conditional protasis:

s'il se remuoit, il le suyvoit à la trace (Amy., 71); Je la sçauray assez quand je la sentiray. (Mont., III, 391)

We refer, however, only to formulas based on examples having a truly conditional (or a concessive) protasis:

Le roy . . . veoit qu'il perdoit temps s'il ne gaignoit ceulx qui. . . (Comm., I, 170); quand il ne pourra arriver à ce tiltre, celui qu'il y desirera le plus sera le Duc de Savoye. (Vair, 87)

Included among these 159 types are 24 introduced by *qui*, of which only 16 occur in or after Commynes. Among them also are 29 introduced by *quand* and occurring in or after Commynes, some

in a continued period be negative, the two following must be subjunctive. Thomas Corneille comments that it would be ridiculous to say *il ne sçait pas qu'on dise dans la ville qu'il soit un mal-honneste homme*. (*op. cit.*, II, 92). Thus it is evident that Malherbe's construction, which is well precedented, became objectionable between 1647 and 1687.

of which occur also before Commynes.⁹ The following table compares the number of formulas or types introduced by *si*, with the number of all other formulas combined:

	<i>Si</i>	<i>All other.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Gaut.	23	9	32
Chr.	32	16	48
Froiss.	17	10	27
Comm.	29	16	45
Marg.	26	24	50
Rab.	29	10	39
Desp.	16	12	28
Calv.	18	9	27
Fail	16	10	26
Rons.	11	4	15
Paliss.	18	18	36
Amy.	8	5	13
Est.	9	12	21
Mont.	16	14	30
Vair	20	12	32
Malh.	19	6	25
France	16	6	22

9. Since different types of literature are being compared, it would be impossible to make any special interpretation of this table showing the preponderant use of *si* to introduce the conditional sentence. Consequently, we call attention merely to the excessive number of formulas employed by Commynes, Marguerite d'Angoulême, Rabelais, and Palissy; and to the distribution between *si* and other constructions in the cases of Marguerite d'Angoulême and Palissy, as compared with the cases of Commynes and Rabelais.

The *Heptaméron* is the work in which a second protasis most seldom occurs, while Commynes and Palissy provide examples of the most complicated series of protases (e.g., Comm., II, 213; Paliss., 121). In this connection it is interesting to note that neither Commynes nor Palissy had any Latin training.

⁹ We have not been able to verify the opinion of M. Brunot (*Histoire de la Langue Française*; Paris, 1906; II, 452) that "dans l'ensemble, on peut dire que *quand*, seul, non accompagné de *bien* ou de *même*, devient rare." Except in Henri Estienne, where *quand bien* is most frequently employed, the reverse is true in the material examined. M. Brunot indicates (*id.*, III, 1) that the existing number of studies of 16th century texts, was insufficient for compiling a satisfactory history.

10. Strictly speaking, the majority of the 159 formulas recorded, are exceptional. Similarly, the table in §1 depicts many rare and some exceptional usages. Consequently, having indicated the broadest extents of the conditional sentence according to our conception of it, we shall devote the following sections to the necessary correction of the subject.

ADVERBIAL CLAUSES OF CONDITION

11. The treatment of adverbial clauses of condition forms a pendant to the treatment of the conditional sentence as a formula. The so-called conditional adverbial clause expresses either a condition or a supposition, and may be said to involve two variables: 1) the conjunction or conjunctive locution and 2) the mood.

12. *Si*, as we have noted in §8, is the most constantly employed conditional conjunction, and is followed by nearly all tenses of all moods (§1). Its employment tends to affect the mood of a following objective clause, e.g.:

si ie congnois que ce que vous m'avez dict *soyt* vray (Marg., III, 193).

But also:

si les Princes et autres superieurs *congnoissent* qu'il n'y a rien plus agreable . . . (Calv., R.C., 762).

It may also affect the mood even when the following expression is, in itself, conditional:

a) De laquelle consideration se produiroit un desir d'estre conjoint avec luy . . . , *n'estoit que* l'entendement humain . . . *est* retiré de la droicte inquisition (Calv., R.C., 6).

b) *Si ce n'est que* les princes de cet art . . . *ont* tant poisé chaque syllabe . . . (Mont., III, 382).

But also:

b) mais les causes en sont cachées, *si ce n'est qu'on* les *apprenne* par doctrine. (Calv., O.F., 111)

13. *Comme si*, *ainsi que si*, and *tel que si*, employed to introduce a hypothetical comparison, are followed by the imperfect indicative or subjunctive, and the pluperfect indicative or subjunctive. The

greater frequency of the imperfect indicative and pluperfect subjunctive, is so slight that it is almost negligible throughout our period, but sufficient, in the first case, to indicate a tendency to exclude the imperfect subjunctive. *Comme qui* is followed by the conditional ordinarily, and by the imperfect indicative rarely (e.g., Amy., 23, 24).

14. *Sinon que* equivalent to *sans ce que* or to *excepté que* is followed by the indicative invariably:

et y feussent encores, *sinon qu'on apporta* force vinaigre et eaue rose pour leur faire revenir le sens (Rab., P., 13-65); Le reste est comme vous l'avez laissé, *sinon que* nous avons nos coudées plus franches. (Malh., III, 9)

Its most common employment from Froissart to Malherbe is with the force of *si . . . ne* or *si ce n'est que*, followed by the subjunctive:

Je vous en envoie une copie, *que* je crois *que* vous serez bien aise de voir, *sinon que* vous l'avez déjà vue. (Malh., III, 559)

15. *Au moins que* (rare), *pourvu que*, *prouveu que* (Amy.), *pour que* (pourvu que, si), *mais que*, *moyennant que*, *par ainsi que*, *partant que*, *en condition que*, and *que . . . ne* (à moins que) are followed by the subjunctive.

En condition que, *par condition que*, *à la charge que*, and *par tel si que* are followed by the conditional or the future.

Posé que, *posé le cas que*, *au cas que*, *en cas que*, and *pour peu que* are followed by the subjunctive. *En cas que* is also followed by the indicative or conditional. *Cela posé que* is followed by the indicative in the appositional clause.

Sans que is followed by the subjunctive, *sans ce que* and *sans cela que* by the indicative.

Excepté que, *fors que*, and *au lieu que* (occasionally concessive), are followed by the indicative or conditional.

THE ORDINARY FORMULAS

16. The most commonly employed formulas, as determined by their relative frequencies, or, the thirteen formulas which appear to be standard or persistent formulas in our period, are:

		Protasis	Apodosis
1)	<i>Si</i>	plup. subj.	plup. subj.
2)	<i>Si</i>	plup. subj.	imp. ind.
3)	<i>Si</i>	plup. subj.	cond.
4)	<i>Si</i>	plup. ind.	cond.
5)	<i>Si</i>	imp. ind.	imp. subj.
6)	<i>Si</i>	imp. ind.	cond.
7)	<i>Si</i>	pres. ind.	fut.
8)	<i>Quand</i>	plup. subj.	plup. subj.
9)	<i>Quand</i>	cond. perf.	cond.
10)	<i>Quand</i>	cond.	cond.
11)	<i>Quand</i>	cond.	fut.
12)	<i>Qui</i>	plup. subj.	plup. subj.
13)	<i>Qui</i>	cond.	cond.

Examples:

- 1) 'croy que, s'il eust passé oultre deux traictz d'arc, qu'il eust esté prins (Comm., I, 30); si j'y eusse été, je n'eusse pas donné ce conseil-là. (Malh., III, 117)

Less frequently, the protasis has the pluperfect indicative:

Si tu avois considéré la maniere comment se fait le sel commun, tu n'eusses mis un tel argument en avant (Paliss., 163).

There is no distinction in usage, between the subjunctive and the indicative. Both are employed antithetically, implying that the contrary was the fact: negation implies the affirmative, and the affirmative implies that the negative was true. The subjunctive as well as the indicative, is employed in a negative protasis:

si tu ne l'eusses point perdue, je ne l'eusse point reprise. (Amy., 104)—i.e., tu l'avais perdue.; si M. d'Espéron n'avoit été retenu, les choses fussent allées plus avant. (Malh., III, 63) -i.e., M. d'Espéron avait été retenu.; Si tu avois considéré . . . (Paliss., 163) -i.e., tu n'avais pas considéré.

- 2) fault parler quelle estoit la pensée dudict duc envers le roy et ce qu'il luy gardoit, si la mort dessusdicte ne fust advenue. (Comm., I, 231); Somme, je te dis, mon ancien voysin . . . , que j'estois gasté, si je neusse esté gasté. (Fail, P.R., 106)

S'ilz m'eussent une foys pris, j'estoye infame, moy et tout mon lignage celeste. (Desp., 311); Phryné perdoit sa cause entre les mains d'un excellent advocat si, ouvrant sa robbe elle n'eust corrompu ses juges par l'esclat de sa beauté. (Mont., III, 369)

Ledict conte se mist par le champ pour rallier gens; mais je vey telle demye heure que nous, qui estions demouréz là, ne avions l'oeil que à fuyr, s'il fust marché cent hommes. (Comm., I, 31); si Bocace, du lieu où il estoit les eut pu oyr, il debvoit resusciter à la louange de telles personnes. (Marg., I, 14); il commanda à M. de Saint-Géran de lui aller dire qu'il se decouvrit, ce qu'il alloit faire si, par changement d'avis, le Roi ne l'eût rappelé (Malh., III, 195).

In the examples of the first of the three groups above, the apodosis presents a fact. In the second group, the imperfect indicative in the apodosis has the force of a conditional perfect or a pluperfect subjunctive. In the third group, the same is true as in the second group, but the quality of a modal auxiliary is more easily recognizable in the verb, than it is in the second group.

- 3) Ses pensées et conclusions estoyent grandes, mais nul homme ne les sauroit mettre à fin se Dieu n'y eust adjouxté de sa puissance. (Comm., I, 38); Si j'eusse été aujourd'hui au Louvre, je vous en dirois de plus certaines nouvelles (Malh., III, 489).

Less frequently, the apodosis has the imperfect subjunctive:

Si j'eusse esté un sot, je ne fusse pas où je suis. (Desp., 103); Et y fussent encores ces bonnes dames, si la nuit ne les eust departies. (Fail, P.R., 122)

This is one of the cases in which the conditional definitely appears to be replacing the imperfect subjunctive.

- 4) S'ilz avoient esté bien nourriz en la jeunesse, leurs raisons seroient autres (Comm., I, 130).
- 5) Si j'avois des enfans masles, je leur desirasse volontiers ma fortune. (Mont., III, 427)

Antoine Oudin makes the correction: *ie leur desirerois*.¹⁰ Already

¹⁰ *Grammaire françoise*, Paris, A. de Sommaville, 1640; p. 198. (First edition: Paris, 1632)

in Montaigne, however, the ratio is 1 to 12 in favor of the conditional.

- 6) si je l'étois moins, je vivrois avec moins de regret (Malh., III, 13).

The use of this formula is preponderant as compared with the preceding one, which Oudin considered objectionable in 1640.

- 7) Elle y pensera s'il luy plait. (Vair, 22)
- 8) quant ilz eussent esté ung peu plus avant, ilz eussent prins et desconfit le tiers de l'armée. (Comm., I, 40) -cf. Et quant ilz ne eussent riens voulu bailler, si ne l'eussent les Angloys point fait mourir, mais, au pis venir, l'eussent mys en prison. (*id.*, II, 226); quand bien l'occasion se fust presentee, je ne l'eusse point voulu prendre (Est., 24); En troisiesme lieu, quand ces assemblées eussent esté necessaires, il les eust fallu faire legitimement en lieu public (Vair, 56); Cicéron . . . a souffert . . . des outrages que peut-être son ennemi même eût eu honte de lui faire quand il fût demeuré victorieux. (Malh., II, 156)

The conditional perfect in protasis and apodosis is rare, and does not parallel the force of the pluperfect subjunctive:

quand i'aurois fait tout ce que tu dis, ie n'aurois rien fait sinon une cisterne (Paliss., 171); quand bien ils auroient trouvé quelque moyen d'exprimer . . ., encores auroient-ils peu faict. (Est., 104)

The distinction in usage, however, is to be drawn from the tense of the context. The first formula presents a hypothesis in the past, the second a hypothesis in the present. Aside from this, it is to be noted that, even in a conditional context, one of the primary offices of the conditional perfect seems to be to establish a relationship expressing tense anteriority:

Quant par ma boche le savroit, Je cuit que plus vil m'an avroit, Si me reprocheroit sovant, Que *proiïé* l'an *avroie* avant. (Chr., 1005); Et s'il l'avoit faict, il faudroit croire qu'il *auroit esté* trompé et seduit par ceux qui luy *auroient faict* entendre l'estat de nos affaires tout autrement qu'il n'est. (Vair, 154)

In the language of Chrétien and Gautier the imperfect subjunctive may serve in the major employment of either the conditional, the conditional perfect, or the pluperfect subjunctive; but a sense of

tense anteriority is peculiar to the conditional perfect, and remains so in our period.

- 9) Quand tu m'aurois presché l'espace de cent ans *si* est-ce que tu ne me sçaurois faire à croire qu'il y eust du sel és fumiers (Paliss., 19).
- 10) Mais quand ils en viendroyent là, ils ne nous feroient pas de plaisir. (Est., 36)
- 11) Et quand il arriveroit autrement, noz voix et noz paroles demeureront en ce lieu pour tesmoins (Vair, 53).
- 12) Il n'y avoit que quinze jours qu'il eust esté bien esbahy qui luy eust dit: . . . (Comm., I, 204).
- 13) Qui vous feroit droict, on vous priveroit de vostre benefice (Desp., 112); Il est des choses de cette nature, que qui les bailleroit à ceux qui les demandent, elles seroient occasion de leur ruine. (Malh., II, 26)

This formula is very frequent also in constructions where *qui* has an expressed antecedent serving as the subject of both clauses. The force of a conditional sentence remains:

Et deux grans princes qui se voudroient bien antreaymer ne se devroyent jamais veoir (Comm., I, 87); De vray, on desroberoit beaucoup à celuy là, qui le poiserait sans l'honneur et grandeur de sa fin. (Mont., I, 98)

17. From Gautier d'Arras to Anatole France, in the material examined, what we may arbitrarily term the ordinary formulas, are 48 in number. They include: 1) the 13 most common formulas, enumerated above; 2) formulas closely related to, or varying slightly from the latter (e.g., by the addition of a second protasis); and 3) formulas standing next in order of frequency. Excluding the 13 formulas already shown in §16, they are:

A) Formulas having a compound tense in the protasis:

Protasis	2nd Protasis	Apodosis	
Imperf. subj.		imperf. subj.	<i>si</i> (none after Froiss.)
(plup. force)		(plup. force)	
(plup. force)		(plup. force)	<i>qui</i> (none after Froiss.)
Plup. subj.	plup. subj.	plup. subj.	<i>si</i>

Plup. subj.		cond. perf.	<i>si</i> (France only)
Plup. subj.	imperf. subj.	cond. perf.	<i>si</i> (Amyot only)
Cond. perf.		cond. perf.	<i>quand</i>
Cond. perf.	plup. subj.	cond. perf.	<i>quand</i>
Cond. perf.	imperf. subj.	cond. perf.	<i>quand</i>
Cond. perf.	cond. perf.	fut. perf.	<i>quand</i>
Plup. subj.		plup. ind.	<i>si</i>
Plup. ind.		plup. subj.	<i>si</i>
Plup. ind.		cond. perf.	<i>si</i> (France only)
Plup. subj.		imperf. subj.	<i>si</i>
Plup. subj.	plup. subj.	imperf. subj.	<i>si</i>
Plup. subj.	imperf. subj.	cond.	<i>si</i>
Plup. subj.		imperf. subj.	<i>quand</i>
Cond. perf.		cond.	<i>si</i> (Froiss. only)
Cond. perf.	cond.	cond.	<i>si</i> (Palissy only)
Plup. ind.	plup. subj.	cond.	<i>si</i>
Plup. ind.	imperf. subj.	cond.	<i>si</i>
Plup. subj.		imperf. ind.	<i>qui</i>
Plup. subj.		imperf. ind.	<i>quand</i>
Plup. ind.		imperf. ind.	<i>si</i>

B) Formulas having a simple tense in protasis and apodosis:

Imperf. subj.		imperf. subj.	<i>si</i>
Imperf. subj.		imperf. subj.	<i>qui</i> (Chrétien only)
Imperf. subj.		cond.	<i>si</i>
Imperf. ind.	imperf. subj.	cond.	<i>si</i> (Persistent)
Imperf. ind.	imperf. ind.	cond.	<i>si</i>
Cond.		imperf. subj.	<i>qui</i> (Commynes only)
Cond.		imperf. subj.	<i>quand</i> (Amyot only)
Cond.	imperf. subj.	cond.	<i>quand</i>
Cond.	cond.	cond.	<i>quand</i> (Marg. only)
Cond.	imperf. subj.	fut.	<i>quand</i> (Marg. only)
Pres. ind.	pres. subj.	fut.	<i>si</i>
Pres. ind.	pres. ind.	fut.	<i>si</i> (Calvin only)

OTHER FORMULAS

18. Here, as we have done above, we shall omit examples, in order to abbreviate material. The formulas standing, in order of frequency, next to those of the third group mentioned in §17, are:

- Si*—Plup. ind.—pres. ind.
 Plup. subj.—past def.; pres. ind.; pres. subj. with optative force.
 Imperf. subj.—plup. subj.; imperf. ind.; pres. ind.
 Past def.—past def.; pres. ind.; fut.
 Imperf. ind.—plup. ind.; plup. subj.; past def.; imperf. ind.;
 past indef.; pres. ind.; pres. subj. with optative force;
 cond. perf.; fut.
 Past indef.—past indef.; pres. ind.; cond.; fut.
 Pres. ind.—imperf. subj.; imperf. ind.; past indef.; pres.
 ind.; cond.
 Fut.—pres. subj. with optative force.
- Quand*—Imperf. ind.—plup. subj.
 Pres. ind.—pres. ind.; cond.; fut.
 Cond.—imperf. ind.; pres. ind.; cond. perf.
 Fut.—past indef.; pres. ind.; fut.
 Fut. perf.—fut.
- Qui*—Pres. ind.—pres. ind.; cond.
 Cond.—pres. ind.
 Fut.—pres. ind.; pres. subj. with optative force; cond.; fut.
- Ne*—Plup. subj.—plup. ind.; plup. subj.; imperf. subj.; imperf.
 ind.
 Imperf. subj.—plup. subj.; pres. ind.
 Imperf. ind.—plup. subj.; imperf. subj.; pres. ind.; cond.
 Cond.—pres. ind.; cond.
- Que*—Imperf. subj.—imperf. ind.; cond.
 Pres. subj.—fut.
 Cond.—cond.
- None—Imperf. subj.—cond.

PERSISTENCY OF THE FORMULA

19. The formula of the conditional sentence is remarkably persistent. The tense and mood of the apodosis tend to remain unchanged under all conditions. A few comparisons will serve to illustrate this fact:

Gaut., 5462: Li chief del pont sont si gaitié
 N'i a chevalier si haitié,
 Si orgueilleus ne plain de rage
 Qui de passer *ait* grant courage.

Cf. Gaut., 6202: N'a home en tout le mont si baut

Qui l'oseroit si metre en haut,
 Se il le vreté n'en savoit,
 Et il des clers tesmoing n'avoit.

Marg., I, 85: Mais i'ay si grand paour que la demonstration *face* tort à la perfection de mon amour, que ie crainctz que celle de qui ie debvrois desirer l'amityé semblable l'*entende*; . . .

Cf. Marg., III, 1: i'ay grand paour que si une fois vostre ypo-
 crisie est descouverte vous n'*aurez* plus le pain des pauvres
 enfans acquis par la sueur des peres.

id., II, 261: Le ieune prince . . . craignant aussy que s'il
 en estoit quelque bruit & que sa mere le sceut, elle *auroyt*
 occasion de s'en courroucer. . .

Calv., O. F., 103: Or, je ne vois point que *puissiez* rien demander
 en ce passage outre ceci, . . .

Cf. Mont., I, 41: J'ay veu plusieurs de mon temps, . . . qui
 ne voyent pas que, si la reputation y est, l'effect n'y *peut*
 estre.

Vair, 193: Je n'ignore pas que la condition du calamiteux estat
 où nous avons vescu n'*ait* entamé bien avant la fortune de
 plusieurs d'entre vous . . .

Cf. *id.*, 97: Quand il seroit chatouillé d'un desir ambitieux de
 monter à ce degré d'honneur (. . .) il n'ignore pas que
 ce *seroit* une grande simplesse d'accepter ce tiltre en l'estat
 où il est.

20. The above examples may be said to illustrate collisions of
 formulas in which the conditional formula remains intact. One finds
 also examples of the opposite result:

Gaut., 6202, Var. T: N'a home en cest monde si haut
 Qui pas *losast* mettre si haut,
 Se . . .

Comm., I, 224: Vous semble-il, que si je y entre avecques la
 compaignie que je y meneray, que je y *feïsse* guères de bien?

Desp., 312: Je ne crains que une chose: c'est que si Jupiter le voit
 et qu'il trouve son livre perdu, il n'en *fouldroye* et *abysme*
 tout ce povre monde icy, . . .

In these examples, the tense of the subjunctive still corresponds to
 the tense (or mood) of an apodosis: the imperfect subjunctive re-
 places the conditional, and the present subjunctive replaces the future.
 This is quite generally true when, although the sense of an apodosis
 exists in the sentence, the construction requires a subjunctive. It

remains true also in those cases where a conditional would express the past's future:

Au commencement que je m'appliquay à escrire ce present livre: je ne pensoye rien moins, o Tresnoble Roy, que d'escrire choses qui *fussent* présentées à ta Majesté. (Calv., R. C., V)

Cf. Le beau pere entra en l'isle pour sercher l'endroit qui lui *seroit* plus à propos (Marg., I, 64).

CONCLUSIONS

21. In the material from Montaigne, Du Vair, and Malherbe which we have examined, the words employed to introduce a protasis are, in order of frequency, *si*, *quand*, *qui*, and *ne*. After them we have recorded the employment of the following tenses and moods:

	<i>Si</i> M.V.M.	<i>Quand</i> M.V.M.	<i>Qui</i> M.V.M.	<i>Ne</i> M.V.M.
Plup. indic.	* *			
Plup. subj.	* * *	* * *	*	*
Imperf. indic.	* * *			* *
Imperf. subj.	*			
Past indef.	* * *			
Pres. indic.	* * *	*		
Cond.		* * *	* * *	
Fut.		*	*	
Cond. perf.		* * *		

This table, compared with the one presented in §1, shows that a considerable stabilization and restriction of usage had been effected by the end of the sixteenth century. These moods and tenses, excepting only the future, are identical with those employed in the protases of the 13 most commonly used formulas shown in §16. Likewise, the most commonly used formulas in the works of Montaigne, Du Vair, and Malherbe are those listed in §16, excepting the 5th (imperf. indic.—imperf. subj.), in which the imperfect subjunctive, in the works of Du Vair and Malherbe, disappears in favor of the conditional, leaving but 12 commonly used formulas.

In short, the range of usages becomes restricted at the end of our period, so that we find in the works of Montaigne, Du Vair, and Malherbe only those usages which have been standard usages for a century or longer, for the most part. In the case of *ne*, it is to

be noted that it is generally followed, in the earlier part of our period, by the subjunctive, and in the latter part, by the indicative.

22. The manner in which the 12 formulas indicated above are employed, epitomizes the results of a tendency to greater discrimination in usage, a tendency which examination of the general body of examples from Commynes to Malherbe shows to be constant although greater, for example, in the works of Ronsard and Amyot than in that of Palissy. Concerning the above formulas as employed at the end of the century, the following notations are in order:

SI

23. Protases having either the pluperfect subjunctive or the pluperfect indicative imply that the contrary was true:

si M. d'Espernon n'avoit été retenu, les choses fussent allées plus avant. (Malh., III, 63); ce qu'il alloit faire si, par changement d'avis, le Roi ne l'eût rappelé (*id.*, III, 195).

But when the protasis presents a possibility, probability, or supposition, as distinguished from what is known by the speaker to be contrary to the facts, usage is restricted to the indicative:

Du temps de Loys douziesme, modele des bons Rois et surnommé pere du peuple, le Roy et le Royaume furent mis en interdit. L'Eglise ne pleurerait-elle pas aujourdhuy, si ceste censure avoit eu autant de puissance que d'animosité, et si sur ceste occasion ou les sujets du Royaume ou les estrangers eussent deschiré cet Estat, qui est le bras droit de la Chrestienté? (Vair, 169)¹¹

vous m'écrivez qu'il a plu du sang à Aix . . . Les histoires sont pleines de semblables accidents, mais avec tout cela il est malaisé de me le persuader; s'il étoit arrivé si souvent, il ne seroit pas possible que de tant de fois une il ne se fût fait à la vue du monde (Malh., III, 73).

This restriction does not exist in the earlier works of our period:

A ce point leur respondit le duc Philippes que messire Olivier de la Marche estoit né de la conté de Bourgongne, et son maistre d'hostel, et en riens subget à la couronne; toutesfois, que s'il avoit dit ne faict chose qui fust contre l'honneur du roy et que

¹¹ Here, the second protasis expresses what is contrary to fact, and presents a consequent of the supposition expressed by the first protasis.

ainsi le trouvast par information, qu'il en feroit la pugnition telle que ou cas appartiendrait (Comm., I, 5).

Le roy, adverty de ceste entreprinse, la leur envoya deffendre et de tous pointz la rompre. Car, combien qu'elle sembloit advantaigeuse pour le roy, toutesfois y avoit-il hazard, pour ceulx qui sailloient de la ville par especial; car tous sailloient par deux portes, dont l'une estoit près de l'ost dudict duc de Bourgongne et, s'ilz eussent failli . . ., ilz eussent esté en dangier d'eulx perdre et de perdre la ville. (*id.*, I, 186)

This restriction is tantamount to the elimination of the pluperfect subjunctive from the purely hypothetical protasis expressing a supposition, as distinguished from the hypothetical and contrary-to-fact protasis, in which both the pluperfect subjunctive and the pluperfect indicative are employed throughout our period, but the latter less frequently. This movement is in accord with the dropping, in the apodosis, of the imperfect subjunctive in favor of the conditional, as we have noted in §16, 3), 5), and 6), and §17, B).

24. At the close of our period the employment, in the apodosis, of the imperfect indicative with the force of a conditional perfect, has become rare.¹² It is employed to express, generally, either 1) a fact, or 2) a potentiality:

1) si ce n'estoit à tous, c'estoit à aucuns et plusieurs. (Mont., I, 78); Le dedans estoit un fecond, doux et amene sol, s'il y en a au monde (Vair, 65); Le Roi a protesté au . . . ambassadeur du duc de Saxe, que si le duc de Saxe pouvoit faire avec l'Empereur qu'il lui quittât la possession de cet État, il étoit prêt de sa part de laisser la protection de ses compéiteurs (Malh., III, 133).

2) La cholique (i.e., gravelle) est souvent non moins vivace que nous; il se voit des hommes auxquels elle a continué depuis leur enfance jusques à leur extreme vieillesse, et, s'ils ne luy eussent failly de compaignie, elle estoit pour¹³ les assister plus outre (Mont., III, 416); ils se vouloient emparer de cet Estat, s'ils pouvoient, sinon de le ruïner et deschirer (Vair, 151); A leur arrivée les Romains furent si rudement poussés, qu'ils ne

¹² For examples, see §16, 2). Ayer (*op. cit.*, 655) notes this usage in Voltaire: Si j'avais dit un mot, on vous *donnait* la mort; and in Molière: J'*étais* bien étonné s'il m'oubliait. In the latter example the protasis likewise is employed with pluperfect (indicative) force.

¹³ Cf. Spanish *estar para*, employed to indicate the proximity of an action or occurrence.

s'arrêtèrent qu'au fond de la vallée; et sans la cavalerie étolienne, il est vraisemblable qu'ils étoient pour avoir encore pis. (Malh., I, 405); Toutefois comme il eut considéré que ceux des siens qui tenoient ferme étoient infailliblement perdus, s'ils n'avoient du secours, et d'ailleurs que . . . (*id.*, I, 407).

25. The sixth and seventh formulas (§16: imperf. indic.—cond., and pres. indic.—fut.) are employed quite as in the work of Chrétien de Troyes or that of Anatole France. The sixth serves in a double capacity: 1) to express a hypothesis in present time, and 2) to express a hypothesis in past time:

1) M. de Sully est en faveur plus que jamais, et dit-on que si Monsieur le connétable mouroit, il seroit pour avoir sa charge. (Malh., III, 52); Monsieur, si c'étoit un autre que M. du Périer qui s'en allât en Provence, vous n'auriez point de lettre de moi. (*id.*, III, 51)

2) Je le voyois tous les jours et lui avois prédit que s'il ne changeoit d'humeur, il ne vivroit pas longtemps (*id.*, III, 30); Jeudi au soir . . . un nommé la Brosse . . . dit à M. de Vendôme qu'il avertit le Roi que le lendemain il courroit une grande fortune; que s'il en échappoit, il iroit encore jusques à vingt-cinq ans. (*id.*, III, 167)

In the latter capacity, the imperfect indicative expresses a present in the past, and the conditional a future in the past or the past's future. It is essentially the seventh formula transferred into past time.

QUAND

26. The protasis with *quand* becomes restricted, during the second half of our period, to the expression of a supposed concession (cf. §3):

En troisieme lieu, quand ces assemblées eussent esté necessaires, il les eust fallu faire legitiment en lieu public (Vair, 56); Quand nous aurions oublié qui nous sommes, que les vestemens que nous portons, les tapis sur lesquels nous séons ne nous ramantevroient point que nous sommes les principaux officiers de ce Royaume, . . . si est-ce que le langage que nous parlons nous feroit souvenir que nous sommes François. (*id.*, 127); Et quand nous manquerions d'exemples, si est-ce que l'évidente utilité et pressante nécessité seroient suffisantes pour nous persuader de le faire (*id.*, 39); il est valetudinaire, il pourra mourir,

et, quand il vivra, lon ne luy a point encor fait raison de ses droicts de Portugal. (*id.*, 74)

The following type of usage is exceptional in the second half of our period:

Toutes-fois, quand il y auroit une si grossiere et apparente ou ignorance ou coiïardise, qu'elle surpassast toutes les ordinaires, ce seroit raison de la prendre pour suffisante preuve de meschanceté et de malice, et de la chastier pour telle. (Mont., I, 87)

QUI

27. It is perhaps difficult to recognize instantly, in the sentence *Qui dit voisins dit ennemis* (France, X), a remnant of the once common conditional employment of *qui*. No one, however, would fail to do so in the case of *Sauve qui peut*.¹⁴ At the close of our period *qui* serving as the subject of a protasis, but not serving, at the same time, as the subject of the apodosis or as the antecedent of the subject of the apodosis, has become rare.

The tense and mood after *qui* remain the same as in Gautier d'Arras, as does also its significance, *si on*. Consequently, it seems more important to attempt to throw some light upon the waning use of isolated conditional *qui*, than to devote further attention to the moods and tenses by which it is followed.

28. We present below examples of ten related constructions in which *qui* is employed:

1. Mout li couvendroit a tracier Et mout avroit a pourchacier
Qui plus loial vouldroit trouver. (Gaut., 2498)
2. Mout par est *cil* de povre sens, *Qui* deüst cerchier touz les
rens. (Gaut., 2214); *celuy* seroit, à bon droit, jugé estre
hors de son sens, *qui* vouldroit reprouver telle domination.
(Calv., R.C., 775)
3. Ne puet perir *qui* en Deu croit (Gaut., 178); Poinct n'estoit
filz de bonne mere réputé *qui* dedans ne gettast ce que avoit
de singulier. (Rab., G., 50-37)
4. Mout est buene et riche la cope: Et *qui* a voir dire n'açope,
Plus la devroit l'*an* tenir chiere Por l'uevre que por la

¹⁴ Cf. Ore je trete mon imagination le plus doucement que je puis et la deschargerois, si je pouvois, de toute peine et contestation. Il la faut secourir et flatter, et piper *qui peut*. (Mont., III, 414); Qui veut escarter son ame le face hardiment, *s'il peut*, lors que le corps se portera mal (*id.*, III, 443).

- matiere. (Chr., 1539); *Qui* vous laisseroyt ieuner, dist Oisille, sans vous bailler aultre viande, *on* vous feroit bien changer de propos. (Marg., III, 44)
5. Car *qui* croit Deu riens ne *li* faut. (Gaut., 640); *Qui* n'a le coeur de souffrir ny la mort ny la vie, *qui* ne veut ny resister ny fuir, que *luy* feroit-on? (Mont., I, 83)
 6. *Qui* croit preudome, *il* fait que sages (Gaut., 1481); les accoustremens nous eschauffent, non de leur chaleur, mais de la nostre . . .; *qui* en abrieroit un corps froit, *il* en tireroit mesme service pour la froideur (Mont., I, 82).
 7. *il* vindrent a Guinesores. A cel jor, comant qu'il soit ores, *Qui le chastel vossist deffandre*, ne fust mie legiers a prendre (Chr., 1237); *il* se faut garder, *qui peut*, de tomber . . . (Mont., I, 85); La volonte n'est rien, *qui ne profite*; le profiter n'est rien, *qui n'en a la volonte*. (Malh., II, 179)
 8. *Qui* tout le mont voudroit tracier Ne trouveroit mien escient Tant bon drap ne tant garniment, Com a iluec en cele place (Gaut., 2031); tout le monde s'en va content, et *qui* ne le sera fera semblant de l'être. (Malh., III, 197)¹⁵
 9. c'estoient li marès et les crolières où *on* ne pooit aller, ne chevauchier, *qui* ne se vouloit perdre davantaige. (Froiss., II, 139)
 10. Toutesfois *il* l'alloit veoir *qui* vouloit, et entre les autres y alloit mons^r de Chasteauguyon (Comm., II, 123); A moy, *il* ne me donne *qui* ne veult, je ne prens rien à force (Fail, P. R., 99); *il* est forcé de faire tort en detail *qui* veut faire droict en gros (Mont., III, 388).

Of these constructions, 1 and 10 are practically replaced by 2, at the close of our period:

Celui vraiment les a perdus, *qui* les a estimés perdus incontinent après les avoir donnés. (Malh., II, 6)

Construction 3, which is found also in the work of Du Fail, and construction 5, which is closely related to 6, are comparatively very rare in the sixteenth century works examined, although common in those of Gautier d'Arras and Chrétien de Troyes. The relative frequency of the remaining constructions,

- | | |
|---|--|
| 4. <i>qui</i> . . . , <i>on</i> . . . , | equivalent to <i>si on</i> . . . , <i>on</i> . . . |
| 6. <i>qui</i> . . . , <i>il</i> . . . , | equivalent to <i>si on</i> . . . , <i>on</i> . . . |
| 7. <i>qui</i> . . . , , | equivalent to <i>si on</i> . . . , |

¹⁵ Cf. *Celui qui* se règle par les lois de la nature est riche; *qui* par celles de l'opinion, est pauvre. (*id.*, II, 321)

8. *qui* . . . , , equivalent to *si on* . . . , *on* . . .
 9. *on* . . . , *qui* . . . , equivalent to *on* . . . , *si on* .

may be noted below:

	4.	6.	7.	8.	9.
Gaut.		6	4	9	
Chr.	1		6	8	
Froiss.		2	4	1	1
Comm.		1	7	1	
Marg.	2		3		
Rab., G.	1	1	6	1	
Desp.	3		3		
Calv., R. C.					
Fail			2	3	
Rons.		1	1	1	
Paliss.	1		1		
Amy.		1	2		
Est.				1	
Mont.		3	7	7	2
Vair.			2	1	
Malh.	1	1	6	3	
France				1	

29. It may be noted that construction 7, which we have termed "isolated conditional *qui*," is in every case fairly well counterbalanced by the presence of other constructions, except in Commynes. It is precisely in his work that we find the only case of construction 8 bisected by a second protasis with *on*:

Et aussi bien comme j'ay dit que les princes doyvent estre saiges à regarder à quelz gens ilz baillent leurs besongnes entre mains, aussi bien devroient penser ceulx qui vont dehors pour eulx de s'entremettre de telz matières; et qui pourroit s'en excuser et ne s'en empescher point, *sinon que on veïst* (si on ne voyait) *que eulx mesmes y entendissent bien et eussent affection à la matière*, seroit bien saige. (Comm., I, 92)

30. It is noteworthy that Bernard de Mandrot, in his edition of the *Mémoires* of Commynes (Paris, 1901-3), corrects *pourroit* in the above passage, to agree with an antecedent, and leaves it *pourroient*, although all the manuscripts have, in agreement with the sense of *qui*, the singular. In Froissart, this *qui* is indefinite. It is either singular or plural in sense, although the verb following is singular in form:

Et par ces moiens se firent tant doubter et cremir de leur poeuple que nuls ne les osoit courrouchier; car, en toutes leurs seignouries, *qui se voulsist lever, ne aler à l'encontre d'euls*, ils en presissent si cruelle vengeance que pour *celluy ou ceulx* de tous poins destruire et tous ceulx de *son* lignaige (Froiss., XV, 256).¹⁶

In the following passage *qui cuidons* appears to be equivalent to *si nous cuidons*:

"Folie," font il, "nous travaille, *Qui cuidons* que proiere i vaille: Noieiez est (Eracle) pieça et estainz (Gaut., 951).

In Variant *A* the verb does not agree with an antecedent:

"Folie," font il, "*vos* travaille, *Qui cuide* que priere vaille:
Cf. Variant *T*: "Fol sommes et il nous trauaille, *Qui cuidons*
que piere luj vaille:

It seems evident that the force of *qui* as a conditional particle is thoroughly established at the beginning of our period. At the same time the relative adjectival or conditional clause after *homme* is also thoroughly established (*v. Gaut.*, 3081, 3376, 3579; and especially *Comm.*, II, 224, line 16-225, line 9). In view of the multiple constructions of synonymous force, some of which are almost identical in form as well (§28), it is difficult if not impossible to determine to what, precisely, conditional *qui* primarily owes its decline, which apparently begins in the sixteenth century.

31. Indefinite *homme* in our period is quite ordinarily employed with negative force (*e.g.*, *Marg.*, II, 14; cf. *Chr.*, 5977). Gautier's *li hom qui* has become *celuy qui*, and his indefinite *hom qui*, although still traceable in Montaigne (*e.g.*, I, 84: *on . . . qui*), is the antecedent of indefinite *on* and parallels conditional *qui*. *On*, or *an*, is not exceptional in the twelfth century (*e.g.*, *Chr.*, 4471, 6628), but in a protasis we generally find one of three other constructions: *se nus* (*e.g.*, *Chr.*, 3020), *s'aucuns* (*e.g.*, *Chr.*, 4608), and *qui* (*e.g.*, *Gaut.*, 382, and *Var. T*).

In Commynes we have recorded but one case of *si on* and two cases of *si aucun*, in a conditional sentence. In Calvin, on the other

¹⁶ Cf. *il mainnent bien leur host XX ou XXIII lieuwes loing, que de jour que de nuit, de quoi moult de gens se poroient esmerveiller, qui ne saroient leur coustume.* (*id.*, II, 133)

hand, we hardly find conditional *qui* except in the expression *comme qui dirait*, paralleled, with verbs other than *dire*, by *comme si quelqu'un*. *Si quelqu'un* and *si on* (cf. *si l'homme*, Calv., R. C., 16) are employed more or less interchangeably (e.g., Calv., R.C., VI, 12, 771). Similarly, we find *si quelqu'un* in the protasis in R.C., IV, 780; *si on* in R.C., X, 4, 15, 20, 771; *quant on* in R.C., 759, 769; *si nous* in R.C., 2 (twice), 18 (thrice), 22, 25, 760, 761, 776; and *si* with a passive construction in R.C., 9 and (reflexive) XX. In other words, conditional *qui* seems to have been incompatible with Calvin's style. In Du Vair, we find both *si on* (e.g., 72, 150) and the passive (e.g., 149), alternating with conditional *qui*.

But, if conditional *qui* appears to have been dropped in favor of *si on* or *si quelqu'un*, the latter constructions may hardly be said to have replaced it. Its passing constitutes a distinct loss to the language. Montaigne, as we have seen, employs it frequently; and Malherbe appears to have appreciated its utility. Modernly, it is scarcely understood, as may be seen from the insertion of the preposition in the proverb:

Tout vient à point à qui sait attendre.

32. In conclusion, it may be said that the history of the conditional sentence from Commynes to Malherbe reflects the history of the language during that period. It reveals the process of corrective selection from an already richly endowed language as being well under way a full half century before Malherbe formally engaged in it, and reveals this process as amounting mainly to a restrictive conformation to what usage had longest and most fully favored.

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